

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0004
(916) 319-2004

DISTRICT OFFICE
3300 DOUGLAS BLVD., #430
ROSEVILLE, CA 95661
(916) 774-4430

WEB
WWW.ASSEMBLY.CA.GOV/LESLIE

*Assembly
California Legislature*



TIM LESLIE
ASSEMBLYMAN, FOURTH DISTRICT
August 30, 2004

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DEVELOP A MASTER PLAN TO END POVERTY IN CA.
FAIRS ALLOCATION & CLASSIFICATION

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor
State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

I respectfully request that you sign into law Assembly Bill 1426 (Steinberg), which is the end result of three years of negotiations to find a workable means of cultivating affordable housing in the Sacramento region. I am principle co-author of this measure.

When Assemblyman Steinberg introduced his first measure, AB 680 (2001-02), it was rightfully perceived by most of the regional jurisdictions as an unjust redistribution. As the representative of a major portion of the region affected by AB 680, I spearheaded the opposition that ultimately stalled the measure in the Senate. While the measure did not pass, it played a crucial role in jumpstarting the region to start developing plans to cope with affordable housing needs.

In 2003, Assemblyman Steinberg introduced AB 1426. I remained opposed because it continued many of the same problems as AB 680. However, Assemblyman Steinberg's commitment to a workable affordable housing program in the Sacramento region allowed the differing parties to reach a final agreement. AB 1426 represents that agreement.

AB 1426 is very important for several reasons. One, AB 1426 is incentive based. This gives the region the flexibility to address housing needs that prior versions of this bill lacked. Two, inclusionary zoning will not have to be adopted under AB 1426. Inclusionary zoning has been found to drive up costs and is not an effective way to encourage affordable housing construction. Lastly, this pilot program could become a very successful model for other regions of the state to adopt. This is key to ensuring that California can appropriately address our housing problems into the future.

I applaud Assemblyman Steinberg for sticking with this issue and working with the local jurisdictions to forge this compromise.

Again, I respectfully request that you sign this measure into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Leslie".

TIM LESLIE
Assemblyman, Fourth District

TL: kto